

Q & A
Parent Transportation Reimbursement
August, 2007

1.) When should parent transportation reimbursement be offered to a family?

Parent transportation was designed to assist families who have difficulty transporting their child when services cannot take place in the natural environment of the home or community setting. Transportation reimbursement for a family must be considered when:

- The child will be transported to a special purpose center setting because there are no providers available (NPA) to deliver services in the natural environment.
- The IFSP team decides that services must be provided in a special purpose center because services in the natural environment would not meet the needs of the child and family **AND** the parent/caregiver indicates that a lack of transportation would prevent the family from accessing the early intervention services. The discussion between the caregiver and the service coordinator should focus on the family's ability to access the early intervention services being offered. If the family indicates that a lack of transportation is a barrier to accessing the services outlined in the IFSP, then transportation reimbursement may be offered to allow the family access to the services. Transportation reimbursement is **not** available to the family if the child is already attending a community setting or special purpose center where the IFSP is proposing to implement services. In these cases the family has placed the child in the setting and First Steps will take the services to the child.

2.) What is the current rate at which transportation is reimbursed?

The mileage rate changes on July 1st of each year and parents should be advised to check with their service coordinator sometime after July 1st regarding the current rate. If a family does not know the current rate and guesses at an amount more or less than the current rate, their claim will not be denied but paid at the rate that was in the system for the date of service being billed. As of July 1, 2007, the current transportation rate is 45 cents per mile.

3.) If a family has declined transportation reimbursement, how is this documented?

Parents/caregivers are not required to accept the transportation reimbursement service when offered. If a parent/caregiver declines the service, then a case-note to that effect in the child's file and a statement in the IFSP that transportation reimbursement was declined by the family is sufficient to document this. No other action is necessary.